

A message about the impact of road injury



Road injury and death impacts the Australian community in many ways. At a worldwide level it is estimated that nearly 1.3 million people die in road crashes each year, and an additional 20-50 million people are injured or disabled (*World Health Organisation website, 2014*).

Apart from the direct physical effects, families have to try and cope with the death or disability of a family member involved in a road crash. This has a large impact in terms of emotional and financial stress. The consequences of a road crash not only effect the individuals involved in the crash, but witnesses, emergency workers, families, friends, workmates and the larger community.

Talk with friends and family about safer driving and the consequences of a road crash. Some of the consequences are:

- loss of life or serious permanent injury to passengers and other road users
- motor vehicle damage
- loss of life or serious, permanent injury to themselves
- loss of driver's licence and the implications of this to their lifestyle, welfare and job
- increased insurance premiums and excesses
- driving convictions and penalties (eg fines, vehicle confiscation, loss of licence).

Although the list of crash consequences below is very comprehensive, remember that the messages listed above have been shown to have a greater impact among young people.

Crash Consequences

Financial	Social	Legal	Emotional	Physical
property damage	travel delays	loss of licence	mental trauma	pain and suffering
loss of income	use of community funds	criminal record	guilt and regret	disability
ambulance fees and medical costs	loss of freedom	demerit points	depression	death
funeral expenses	loss of licence	loss of vehicle	family trauma	hospitalisation
repair costs	loss of job	legal fees	reliance on friends, family	harm to others
increased insurance premiums	loss of income, or reduced income	imprisonment	impact on relationships	recovery
	shame	Aboriginal law	quality of life	rehabilitation